

Bechtel gives \$10,000 to Hispanic Academic Achievers Program

The Hispanic Academic Achievers Program recognized a \$10,000 contribution from Bechtel at a special program at Pasco's Trade, Recreation and Agricultural Center on May 2.

At the event, thousands of students, their parents and community leaders heard keynote speaker Salvador Mendoza Jr. and his bilingual message about the importance of education, life choices and community enhancement.

"This is Bechtel's sixth consecutive year contributing to the HAAP and Tri-Cities community," HAAP Chairman Frank Armijo said. "Bechtel's support and investment in education directly benefits college scholarships for graduating high-school students. This contribution is helping to fully develop the talents of our community. We are extremely appreciative of their continued support."

The platinum-member contribution toward HAAP was made in conjunction with Bechtel's commitment to community involvement and continued education, said Bechtel National Senior Vice President Ron Naventi.

"The HAAP is a way to celebrate students' and the community's commitment to education," Naventi said. "Bechtel is honored to be part of this special event supporting our area students and their drive for even higher educational goals. Investing in education benefits and strengthens our entire community."

For the past 13 years, the non-profit HAAP organization has recognized the scholastic achievement and citizenship of southeastern Washington students in grades 4 through 12. The HAAP awarded more than \$50,000 this year and over \$550,000 in scholarships to Mid-Columbia students for academic excellence over the past 11 years. ■